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A Note on *Lagochirus araneiformis* L. (Coleop.: Cerambycidae).

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(Plate II.)

A communication addressed to the Yale Forestry School, and referred to the Entomology Department of the Connecticut Experiment Station, aroused the interest of several entomologists.

The letter, from Dr. Willis Whitney, of Schenectady under date of March 23, 1941, reported the finding at Nassau, British West Indies, of numerous circular cavities under the bark of *Bursera simiruba*. The cavities, found only in dead or dying wood, were approximately two inches in diameter and covered in many cases with the bark which remained attached by a thin edge in the manner of a "trap door". Leading into the wood from the large cavity was a tunnel of much smaller diameter. A native of the islands related to Dr. Whitney that a "small black bee" cut out the flap with its "nose". The "bee" then went behind the "trap door" to deposit an egg, after which it left to return only to release its offspring when the latter matured. Dr. Whitney questioned the story, but could find no information about it.

The present writer could find no reference to this type of insect habitat in the literature nor any information from correspondence with some other workers. The nature of the "trap door" did not suggest the work of a carpenter bee as the story of the native of the Bahamas would imply. Nor was it the work of a trap-door spider, which might have taken advantage of a pre-existing cavity in the wood—a fact verified by Dr. Petrunke-

vitch, of Yale University. Rather, the bark covering of the cavity, by its bevelled shape, showed that it had been chewed from the inside out, as would be done by an emerging insect, and not from the outside in, as would be done by one seeking to oviposit. A cerambycid beetle would be the most likely suspect.

Correspondence with Dr. George N. Wolcott elicited the correct answer. Dr. Wolcott first reported that *B. siniruba*, or almácigo as it is called in Puerto Rico, quite commonly shows the type of injury described by Dr. Whitney, but that he had seen only material too old to contain the insect responsible. He later found fresher material containing larvae and pupae in the wood several inches beneath the bark. He was able to rear these through and identify the adult as a cerambycid, *Lagochirus araneiformis* L. Dr. Wolcott suggested that the callow adult made the large cavity just under the bark in which it rested until its wings hardened.

Leng (1920) gave the distribution of this species of cerambycid as South America, West Indies and Florida. Bates (1879-1886) included Mexico, British Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, West Indies, South America, Tahiti, and the Sandwich Islands. Dr. Wolcott mentioned that *L. araneiformis* is not specific as to host, he having reared it from mahogany as well as from the almácigo. Smith (1921) and Wilson (1923) have reported this insect attacking sugar-cane, and Craighead (1923) mentioned *Ficus* as a host.

REFERENCES.

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CRAIGHEAD, F. C. 1923. North American Cerambycid Larvae. Canadian Department of Agriculture, Tech. Bull. 27.

LENG, C. W. 1920. Catalogue of the Coleoptera of America, North of Mexico, p. 282.

SMITH, L. 1921. Virgin Islands Agricultural Exp. Sta. Bull. 2: 22.

WILSON, C. E. 1923. Virgin Islands Agr. Exp. Sta. Report, 1922: 16.

Since this article was submitted, a complete and delightfully written story of this insect appeared under title of "Isn't Research Fun" by Willis R. Whitney, in *The Caribbean Forester*, 3: 47-57, 1942.